

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SUBJECT ADDED)

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SUBJECT: FINAL ELECTIONS RESULTS.

RREF: BRUSSELS 1517 (NOTAL), BRUSSELS 1516

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY BELIEVES SOCIAL CHRISTIAN/SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IS OPTION MOST LIKELY EMERGE FROM MULTI-PARTY NEGOTIATIONS. GOVERNEMENT WILL BE FORMED ONLY AFTER MANEUVERING BY THESE TWO MAJOR GROUPS TO ENHANCE THEIR LEVERAGE WITH RESPECT TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES AND BY THE OTHER PARTIES SEEKING COMPENSATIONS FOR FUTURE SUPPORT IN LEGISLATING REGIONALIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. OPTIONS, OBJECTIONS AND ISSUES. SET FORTH BELOW ARE SOME OF POSSIBLE GOVERNING COALITIONS UP FOR NEGOTIATIONS, WITH IDENTIFICATION OF RELATED OBJECTIONS, OBSTACLES AND TACTICAL

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ISSUES:

A. SOCIAL CHRISTIAN/SOCIALIST BIPARTITE (CVP/PSC-PSB).

PSB LEADERS ASSERT THEY ARE NOT WILLING TO TAKE PART IN GOVERNMENT UNLESS THEY RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL SATISFACTION THAT GOVERNMENT WILL IMPLEMENT OR FULLY CONSIDER PSB POSITIONS ON PUBLIC SECTOR ENTRY INTO INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY, "PLURALIST" SCHOOLS, LIBERALIZATION OF LAWS AGAINST ABORTION. IT IS CERTAIN THAT PSB LEADERSHIP IS DIVIDED ON HOW RIGID THE PSB NEGOTIATING POSITION SHOULD BE, AND THAT RIVALRIES AMONG ANDRE COOLS, EDMOND LEBURTON, WILLY CLAES AND HENRI SIMONET WILL PLAY A ROLE.

B. SOCIAL CHRISTIAN/SOCIALIST/LIBERAL TRIPARTITE (CVP/PSC-PSB-PLP). THE PSB LEADERSHIP CLAIMS IT IS DEAD SET AGAINST ALLOWING FREE-ENTERPRISE LIBERALS TO WATER DOWN "RADICALIZATION" PROGRAM PSB FAVORS, AND THAT IT WILL NOT TAKE PART IN GOVERNMENT THAT INCLUDES PLP.

C. SOCIAL CHRISTIAN/LIBERAL/LINGUISTIC PARTY GROUPS. ELECTORAL SETBACK SUFFERED BY LINGUISTIC CAMPS GREATLY WEAKENS THE CREDIBILITY OF THEIR TAKING PART IN A GOVERNMENT, BUT UNLESS THE SOCIAL CHRISTIANS CAN MAKE A GOVERNMENT THAT INCLUDES LINGUISTIC FORCES LOOK LIKE A CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE SOCIALISTS, THEIR BARGAINING POSITION WITH THE SOCIALISTS IS CONSIDERABLY WEAKENED. A COMPLICATING FACTOR IS THE HOSTILITY SHOWN BY THE FRANCOPHONE SOCIAL CHRISTIANS (PSC), BUT NOT BY THE FLEMISH SOCIAL CHRISTIANS, TO INCLUDING LINGUISTIC PARTIES IN THE GOVERNMENT.

3. PERSONALITIES. IF A FLEMISH SOCIAL CHRISTIAN, E.G. LEO TINDEMANS, HEADS THE GOVERNMENT AS EXPECTED, CONSIDERATIONS OF BALANCE WILL WORK AGAINST RENAAT VAN ELSLANDE BEING RENEWED AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS THAT WILL WORK FOR RENEWAL, PARTICULARLY THE INTENSITY OF THE DESIRE AMONG CVP LEADERS TO HANG ON TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO, SO RECENTLY OBTAINED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE PARTY'S HISTORY.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY EXPECTS A SOCIAL CHRISTIAN/SOCIALIST COALITION WILL EMERGE EVENTUALLY, AFTER A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF THINKING ALOUD BY THE SOCIAL CHRISTIANS ABOUT A NON-SOCIALIST COALITION AND VIGOROUS ASSERTIONS BY THE SOCIALISTS THAT FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAM MUST BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PART OF A NEW GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. OUR SOURCES IN THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY ARE PREDICTING THIS OUTCOME, BASED ON THEIR CONVICTION THAT THE DISADVANTAGE OF NON-PARTICIPATION BY PSB, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS IS ATTAINABLE, WILL OUTWIGH THEORETICAL ADVANTAGES OF THERAPEUTIC PERIOD IN OPPOSITION. BOOCHEVER

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